



MARCH & APRIL 2024

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

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**Sunday
Worship
10:30a
(Fellowship
BEFORE)**



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|--|--|---------------------|
| Mar. 24 Palm Sunday Worship | 9a Geth | 10:30a St St |
| <i>Mar. 27 No Soup, Service, or Study Gathering this Wednesday</i> | | |
| Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday Worship | 6p Gethsemane | |
| Mar. 29 Good Friday Vigils | 12-3p St St and 12-3p Geth | |
| Mar. 29 Good Friday Worship | 6p St Stephen's | |
| Mar. 31 Easter Sunday Worship | 9a Breakfast: St. Stephen's | |
| | 9a Worship: Gethsemane | |
| | 10:30a Worship: St St | |

Holy Week Details



MARCH

- 3 Carol Sundstrom
- 9 Sue Hess
- 10 Shawn Anger
- 15 Danielle Bergquist, Todd Nehls
- 25 Patti Brooks
- 30 Jeannie Voelker
- 31 Gavyn Crawford



APRIL

- 01 Kelly Francour
- 06 Morgan Bergquist
- 17 Janice Sederquist
- 18 Taylor Anger
- 21 Rich Smith
- 26 Tammy Parrett
- 30 Lily Keyzers

***We continue to hold our military members in our prayers:
Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Ken Dams, Trish Dams, Brent Jurmu,***

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Bonnie Christophersen

Callan Johnson

Don Schmelling

Gary Klatt

James Dutkavich

Zeke Gill

May the comfort and hope of the Resurrection be with the friends and families of



+Connie Kendrick+



+Dave Hannon+



+ Beth Johnson+



+Mary Eland+

*Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants
in your prayers. Please contact the Office with any corrections.*

Hospitalized? Welcome a visit? Contact the Office at **906.753.4932**, or reach out to **Pr Brenda** directly at **720.989.8218** (call/text), and we'll make it happen!



Quiet Your Hearts

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Dear Church,

The words you see printed in this box were my **LEAST** favorite words as a kid. Not only had I just roused myself from a lovely, weekend slumber, but I had primped and curled my long hair, thrown on some fancy clothes...and now I had to be **QUIET**, too!?

**“Let us take this time
to quiet our hearts
and minds and
prepare for worship.”**

But, alas, these were the **VERY FIRST WORDS** I would read in our weekly bulletin at Hope Reformed Church in Sheboygan, WI. *Prepare for worship!*? I wasn't in charge, so what more did I possibly have to do!? As a kid, I was clueless, But as an adult? Well, now I have a better appreciation for the GIFT of what it can mean to truly prepare to worship God. Perhaps we could all use a **refresher!**

- 1. Quiet your cellphones.** Back when I was a kid, there certainly weren't any cell phones to quiet. Now, however, these handy-dandy little devices are demanding more and more of our time than is truly healthy. The temptation to check our e-mail during the service, or read that one funny article, or quickly send a message is overwhelming our desire to spend intentional time with God. Unless needed for an emergency situation or medical condition, let's tuck those phones away for a mere hour so we can concentrate on God's presence within us and God's people around us.
- 2. Quiet your minds.** Ooof, another tough one. Our world rewards those who find new ways to multi-task. It gives extra credit to those who can get the most done in the shortest amount of time. Abandon ALL of that when you step into the worship space. Since our cell phone has already been quieted, now, it's time to turn off that never-ending machine known as our minds. Concentrating on God takes work and takes practice and takes ALL of our attention.
- 3. Quiet our hearts.** We are reminded week after week that WE are the Church...AND...we intentionally come together each week to build upon those communal relationships we've formed with one another. While Fellowship Time (*be it before or after the service*) is an essential component of our time together, sometimes, our hearts just need to spend a little quiet time with God. Personally, I often found this to be true during two, distinct times of worship: right BEFORE the service begins, and once again, AFTER Holy Communion.

The **Prelude** music that is heard through the sound system is rarely over 60 beats per minute. Meaning, it's been selected to calm your pulse, center your soul, and quiet your hearts. Perhaps refraining from conversation during those opening moments of worship might better position us to receive all that God has to pour into our hearts that day. Same goes for right AFTER **Holy Communion** – a meal of grace, almost too amazing to comprehend. Spend a moment or two in quiet prayer, giving thanks for God's gift of Christ, giving so freely.

Quieting and preparing alongside you, Church.

Pr. Brenda

It's time for a NEW, Church Directory!

Memories Studios

Jenny Popelka, of **Memories Studios** in Menominee, will be visiting both Gethsemane and St. Stephen's in **April of 2024** to take photos for our new, church directory!

Now, I would imagine there might have been 2 reactions to this news:

"YAY! Those pics will help me see who I've been talking to each week, and give me the contact information I was missing!"

OR "OH, NO! What will I wear? I look terrible in photos. Ugh, just use my old pic."

FEAR NOT, friends! Your Church Family (*and, dare I say God*) does **NOT** care if you wear your favorite jeans or fancy, dress clothes to this photo session. Nobody is going to remember if there was a hair out of place, or if the shades of green your family picked out weren't JUST right. They **ARE** going to remember being able to look up your name, and go "Oh, yeah! That was that helpful man from Sunday" or maybe "I think that was the lady I saw in town last week!"



A Directory CONNECTS folks, and so, we're updating ours! Get ready to say cheese!

PHOTO DAYS

- All photos will have a creamy, tan background (*matches everything*). This allows for everyone from both congregations to hopefully make it to at least **ONE** of the photo days.
- Plan on signing-up for a session on one of these dates at **EITHER** location:



Sunday, April 7th at Gethsemane after 9a worship – 1p
Sunday, April 14th at St. Stephen's after 10:30a worship – 2p
Sunday, April 28th at Gethsemane after 9a worship – 1p



- Photo sessions will take **5 minutes** and include 3 poses: 1 for Directory, 2 of your choice
- Family pictures, Individual shots, animals all welcome
- Last-minute people could easily be squeezed-in, as she will stay as long as needed.
- Absolutely cannot make it these dates? Stop by her **Studio** in Menominee for a quick pic.
- **Snowbirds** invited to submit a non-professional, plain background, horizontal photo

FYI

- While **EVERYONE** needs to **TAKE** (or for snowbirds, submit) a photo, there is absolutely **NO PRESSURE** to purchase **ANYTHING** at **ANY** time.
- Pricing is similar to school or sports photos. An **8x10 photo** is **\$12**, two **5x7 photos** is **\$12**.
- **\$5** for a new Church Directory that will include both G + St members, along with updated, accurate addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. **Available early Fall!**
- **More questions?** Ask Pastor Brenda or even Jenny, herself: jenny@memoriesstudios.org, memoriesstudios.org

Planting the Seeds

Bishop Katherine Finegan



Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

At the risk of getting too personal, I share with you that my mother joined the Saints Triumphant on February 11. As the deadline for this article is February 12, I cannot help but approach this task with thoughts of my mother at the forefront. In this year, as together we as a synod consider what it means to be a Seed Sower and what it means to plant, and as I make plans with my siblings to celebrate the life of my mother, I can think of no better example of one who planted seeds and one who witnessed the yield of seeds planted by others long ago.

My mother (**+Lydia Anna Rittmann Volz+**) was born in India in July 1932, the daughter of missionaries. She, along with her four siblings, was brought up in the faith. She was taught the love of Jesus, the value of compassion, and the expectation of sharing the love of God in a way that makes a difference.

The seeds of faith planted in her bore fruit as she became a nurse, the wife of a seminary professor, the mother of five children, and a generous giver of time, talents, and treasure. She sang in choirs, kissed scraped knees, worked church funerals and became a matriarch of her community of faith. She was a parish nurse at Luther Seminary and her church library was named after her in honor of the hours invested in cataloging, arranging, and gathering literature.

I could go on. But of course, it is the rare mother that doesn't inspire the accolades of her children. My mother was no exception. But in this season of Seed Sowers, I am grateful for the seeds of faith, and the example of generosity, that my mother gave me and all who knew her. She not only planted seeds but enjoyed the fruit of seeds planted by others. She witnessed the seeds planted by missionaries when years later, she returned to India to visit the church and seminary founded by my grandfather and others. She saw how many pastors, native to India, had graduated from that seminary and students that are attending. We give thanks for the churches that were planted and the people who came to know Jesus through their efforts.

And now? I invite you to consider what seeds of faith you are planting. Whether you are working to pass on the faith to the next generation, or enjoying the fruit of seeds planted long ago, I invite you to intentionally plant seeds for future faith, future ministry. This can happen in many ways: Volunteer; Share your story of faith with a stranger, doubts and all; Support a ministry effort with your financial gift; Share your story of faith with a loved one; Remember THE Church or Your church in your will; Work on your own discipleship; Take a class, go to church, invite a friend.

In this time of great change, I am grateful for the seeds of faith planted long ago, and the seeds of faith planted now which will bear fruit in the future. We are part of a great cycle of life, this shape of the Christian life that involves dying and rising, Good Friday and Easter, death and resurrection, planting and harvesting.

The spirit of my mother lives on in those who remember her, and the Spirit of the Living Christ lives as only the son of God can - to call, enlighten and sanctify those who gather and are sent in his name, to plant seeds that someone else will water, and someone else will harvest.

I give thanks for the blessing of my mother, and for all who have planted seeds of faith.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan



Daily Bible Readings, Year B

Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark with more selections from the Gospel of John than any other year. The semi-continuous readings from the Old Testament focus on the covenant of David and Wisdom literature. The second, New Testament, readings are from 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James and Hebrews.

Fri — Mar. 1	Exodus 19:9b-15	Acts 7:30-40	Psalm 19
Sat — Mar. 2	Exodus 19:16-25	Mark 9:2-8	Psalm 19

Sun. Mar. 3 — Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 | Psalm 19 (8) | I Corinthians 1:18-25 | John 2:13-22

Prayer of the Day: *Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Mar. 4	1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22	1 Corinthians 3:10-23	Psalm 84
Tue — Mar. 5	2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19	Hebrews 9:23-28	Psalm 84
Wed- Mar. 6	Ezra 6:1-16	Mark 11:15-19	Psalm 84
Thu — Mar. 7	Genesis 9:8-17	Ephesians 1:3-6	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Fri — Mar. 8	Daniel 12:5-13	Ephesians 1:7-14	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Sat — Mar. 9	Numbers 20:22-29	John 3:1-13	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Sun. Mar. 10 — Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 | Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (19) | Ephesians 2:1-10 | John 3:14-21

Prayer of the Day: *O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Mar. 11	Exodus 15:22-27	Hebrews 3:1-6	Psalm 107:1-16
Tue — Mar. 12	Numbers 20:1-13	1 Corinthians 10:6-13	Psalm 107:1-16
Wed — Mar. 13	Isaiah 60:15-22	John 8:12-20	Psalm 107:1-16
Thu — Mar. 14	Isaiah 30:15-18	Hebrews 4:1-13	Psalm 51:1-12
Fri — Mar. 15	Exodus 30:1-10	Hebrews 4:14—5:4	Psalm 51:1-12
Sat — Mar. 16	Habakkuk 3:2-13	John 12:1-11	Psalm 51:1-12

Sun. Mar. 17 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 | Psalm 51:1-12 (10) or Psalm 119:9-16 (11) | Hebrews 5:5-10 | John 12:20-33

Prayer of the Day: *O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Mar. 18	Isaiah 43:8-13	2 Corinthians 3:4-11	Psalm 119:9-16
Tue — Mar. 19	Isaiah 44:1-8	Acts 2:14-24	Psalm 119:9-16
Wed — Mar. 20	Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23	John 12:34-50	Psalm 119:9-16
Thu — Mar. 21	Deuteronomy 16:1-8	Philippians 2:1-11	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Fri — Mar. 22	Jeremiah 33:1-9	Philippians 2:12-18	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Sat — Mar. 23	Jeremiah 33:10-16	Mark 10:32-34, 46-52	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Sun. Mar. 24 — Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Psalm 31:9-16 (5) | Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1 — 15:47

Prayer of the Day: *Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Mar. 25	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11 (7)	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tue — Mar. 26	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14 (6)	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wed — Mar. 27	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70 (1)	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32

Thu. Mar. 28 — Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-14 | Psalm 116:1-19 | 1 Cor. 11:23-26 | John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Prayer of the Day: *Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Fri. Mar. 29 — Good Friday Isaiah 52:13—53:12 | Psalm 22 | Hebrews 10:16-25 | John 18:1—19:42

Prayer of the Day: *Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Sat. Mar. 30 — Vigil of Easter Romans 6:3-11 John 20:1-18

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Creation | Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (1) |
| 2. Flood | Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13, Psalm 46 (7) |
| 3. Testing of Abraham: | Genesis 22:1-18, Psalm 16 (11) |
| 4. Deliverance at the Red Sea | Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21, Ex 15:1b-13, 17-18 (1) |
| 5. Salvation Freely Offered to All | Isaiah 55:1-11 Response: Is. 12:2-6 (3) |
| 6. The Wisdom of God | Pr. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 |
| 7. A New Heart and a New Spirit | Ez 36:24-28 Response: Psalms 42+43 |
| 8. Valley of the Dry Bones | Ezekiel 37:1-14 Response: Psalm 143 (11) |
| 9. Gathering of God's People | Zephaniah 3:14-20 Response: Psalm 98 (4) |
| 10. Call of Jonah | Jonah 1:1-2:1 Response: Jonah 2:2-3 [4-6] 7-9 (9) |
| 11. Clothed in the Garments of Salvation | Is. 61:1-4, 9-11, Deut. 32:1-4, 7, 36a, 43a (3-4) |
| 12. Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace | Dan 3:1-29, 35-65 (35) |

Sun. Mar. 31 — Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24) | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

Prayer of the Day: *God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Apr. 1	Genesis 1:1-19	1 Corinthians 15:35-49	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Tue — Apr. 2	Genesis 1:20—2:4a	1 Corinthians 15:50-58	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Wed — Apr. 3	Song of Solomon 3:1-1	Mark 16:1-8	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Thu — Apr. 4	Daniel 1:1-21	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 133
Fri — Apr. 5	Daniel 2:1-23	Acts 4:23-31	Psalm 133
Sat — Apr. 6	Daniel 2:24-49	John 12:44-50	Psalm 133

Sun. Apr. 7 — Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35 | Psalm 133 (1) | 1 John 1:1—2:2 | John 20:19-31

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Apr. 8	Daniel 3:1-30	1 John 2:3-11	Psalm 135
Tue — Apr. 9	Daniel 6:1-28	1 John 2:12-17	Psalm 135
Wed — Apr. 10	Isaiah 26:1-15	Mark 12:18-27	Psalm 135
Thu — Apr. 11	Daniel 9:1-19	1 John 2:18-25	Psalm 4
Fri — Apr. 12	Daniel 10:2-19	1 John 2:26-28	Psalm 4
Sat — Apr. 13	Acts 3:1-10	Luke 22:24-30	Psalm 4

Sun. Apr. 14 — Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3:12-19 | Psalm 4 (3) | 1 John 3:1-7 | Luke 24:36b-48

Prayer of the Day: *Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Apr. 15	Jeremiah 30:1-11a	1 John 3:10-16	Psalm 150
Tue — Apr. 16	Hosea 5:15—6:6	2 John 1-6	Psalm 150
Wed — Apr. 17	Proverbs 9:1-6	Mark 16:9-18	Psalm 150
Thu — Apr. 18	Genesis 30:25-43	Acts 3:17-26	Psalm 23
Fri — Apr. 19	Genesis 46:28—47:6	Acts 4:1-4	Psalm 23
Sat — Apr. 20	Genesis 48:8-19	Mark 6:30-34	Psalm 23

Sun. Apr. 21 — Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 (1) 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

Prayer of the Day: *O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Apr. 22	1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 Peter 5:1-5	Psalm 95
Tue — Apr. 23	1 Chronicles 11:1-9	Revelation 7:13-17	Psalm 95
Wed — Apr. 24	Micah 7:8-20	Mark 14:26-31	Psalm 95
Thu — Apr. 25	Amos 8:1-7	Acts 8:1b-8	Psalm 22:25-31
Fri — Apr. 26	Amos 8:11-13	Acts 8:9-25	Psalm 22:25-31
Sat — Apr. 27	Amos 9:7-15	Mark 4:30-32	Psalm 22:25-31

Sun. Apr. 28 — Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Apr. 29	Isaiah 5:1-7	Galatians 5:16-26	Psalm 80
Tue — Apr. 30	Isaiah 32:9-20	James 3:17-18	Psalm 80

News from FORTUNE LAKE: January 2024

We are honored to announce that after years of prayer, discernment, study, conversation, and diligent work, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is now officially part of the **Reconciling in Christ** community! This recognition comes after the **Board of Directors** officially adopted a public statement of welcome for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and a commitment to anti-racism.

To read the **welcome statement** and learn more about our journey, please visit <https://fortunelake.org/about/growing-in-grace/> To learn about the **Reconciling in Christ** community and to find more RIC ministries go to: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/> Since 1974, **ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation** has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.



We look forward to continuing Fortune Lake's long-standing commitment to radical welcome in Jesus's name!



Church Council Minutes



Sunday, January 29, 2024 – Post Annual Meet.

Present: Cheri Leiphart / Keith Olson / Pr. Brenda Greenwald / Kelly Francour / John Starzynski / Kami Salo
 Opening Prayer was led by Pr. Brenda. Meeting called to order at 12:17p by Pr. Brenda

ADDITIONS: Members (new and current) shared contact information. Feb 23 Lenten Meal at St. St.
AGENDA APPROVAL Motion to Accept: John **SECOND:** Keith **CARRIED**

BRIEF Review of Annual Meeting

- **Celebrations:** Enjoyed the meeting as a whole; thankful to have had the script to follow so we could stay on track with numbers and figures; went smoothly, questions asked were genuine inquiries (and not “gotchas” from congregation)
- Areas where we could grow next year: obtain outside help for *Audit (asking non-Council members to help)*

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTIONS of Church Council Officers

- 1. President:** With Keith Olson planning to exit Council at some time in the near future due to family health reasons, Cheri Leiphart agreed to **remain** as Council President of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church.
- 2. Vice-President:** New Council Member Kelly Francour agreed to take-on the role of Council Vice-President of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church.
- 3. Secretary:** Kami Salo accepted the nomination to be Council secretary of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church.
- 4. Treasurer:** Sandy Chaney will remain as the Treasurer for St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church.
- 5. Financial Secretary:** Danielle Bergquist will remain as Financial Secretary for St. Stephen’s Luth. Church
 A **motion** was made by John to approve the election of ALL those nominated; **Seconded** by Pr B,. **Carried.**

PASTORAL REPORT: December 13, 2023 – January 16, 2024 Council Meeting

CALENDAR	• Baptisms	Jackson James Hafeman (1/14/24) at Gethsemane
	• Funerals	+Lois Thonne+ (01/10/24) – Funeral (Anderson-Diehm)
	• Last Rites	+Connie Kendrick+ (12/23/23) – Hospital
	• Events	Christmas Eve Worship, Movie Night, Joint Worship, Wedding Shower (01/20/24) at G.
	• Weddings	Lexi Rasner / Alex Aretz (1/20/24) at St. Stephen’s. Premarital ongoing. Marnie Schuette / Jay Wangerin (06/22/24) at Gethsemane. Jordan Crawford / Kellie Haulotte (09/28/24) at St. Stephen’s.
MINISTRY MOMENTS	• Community	Angel Tree: All donations delivered on 01/16/24.
	• Concerns	<i>(to be shared verbally at meeting)</i>
	• Confirmation	Begins February. Confirmation/Graduation/Pentecost on May 19, 2024.
	• Faith Formation	Mid-Week Lenten Series (5 weeks)
	• Food Pantry	Drop by. Say hello. Bring food. Send money. Pray, pray, pray.
	• Fortune Lake	Summer 2024 schedule published; Now an RIC Community.
	• Menom. Health	(12/19/23), 01/23/24. Looking into Bible Study of some kind...
	• NGL Synod	<i>Dwelling in the Word</i> ZOOM, Council: Resolutions Team, Jan. Mtg, Assembly Plan, Task Force.
	• Office Manager	HE full-time once again (St), TC on performance plan, eval 04/10/24 (G)
	• Photo Directory	Scheduled for April 7 th (10a-1p+ at G), and April 14 th (11:30a-2p+ at St.) Directories to be delivered by END of Summer!
	• Roubal’s	Holiday Christmas Sing (12/22/23)
	• Visitation	Looking for those who could visit homebound member (St.)
	• Visits	Home: 3 Hospital: 1 Retirement: 3 Office: 5

ASSIGNMENT OF LIAISON TEAMS FOR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

- **Bethesda Cemetery:** Keith Olson
- **Property Team:** John Starzynski
- **Finance:** John Starzynski
- **Social Ministry:** Cheri Leiphart
- **Worship/Music:** Cheri Leiphart
- **Faith Formation:** Kami Salo
- **Fellowship:** Kelly Francour
- **Memorial:** John Starzynski
- **WELCA:** Kelly Francour

Motion to Accept: John

SECOND: Pr Brenda

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

- Next St. Stephen’s Council Meeting: **Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 2:15p**
- ***Dwelling in the Word*** Devotion for February: Pr Brenda
- Motion to Adjourn was made by Kami at 12:30p. Closed with ***The Lord’s Prayer***



Church Council Minutes
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – 2:15 p.m.



Present: Kelly Francour, Cheri Leiphart, Keith Olson, Kami Salo, Pr. Brenda Greenwald

Absent: John Starzynski

Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting called to order at **2:40p.**

Devotions: *Dwelling in the Word Devotions.*

Pr Brenda

Agenda Approval	Motion: Keith	Second: Kelly	CARRIED.
Secretary’s Report	Motion: Kami	Second: Kelly	CARRIED.

PASTORAL REPORT: January 17, 2023 – February 15, 2024 *Pr Brenda*

CALENDAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events 	<p>Annual Meetings: Smooth at BOTH sites. AMEN! Ash Wednesday: 12p service well-attended (23). Will keep in 2025. World Day of Prayer - 3/1/24 at Gethsemane. WELCA from G + St Guest Preaching: Holy Family (Marinette) – 3/6/24, Lenten Lunch</p>
MINISTRY MOMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Confirmation • Faith Formation • Fortune Lake • Menom. Health • NGL Synod • Office Manager • Photo Directory • Roubal’s • Visits 	<p>Happy to have hosted a Baby Shower (G) - Let’s USE our SPACES! <i>World Day of Prayer</i> in wonderfully, capable hands! Kiwanis Kapers – Co-Directing. Rehearsals Feb/Mar. Shows in April. Kids made Lenten Boxes; Kenzie helped on Ash Wed. BINGO with Northland folks 03/16/24. Mid-Week Lenten Series (5 weeks): “Journey to the Resurrection” Camper Registrations UP. (Duelly (St) registered, Everit (G) soon). Worship (01/23/24). <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> ZOOMs continue; Youth Team Zoom Frustrations / Conversations continue at G. April 7th (10a-1p+ at G), April 14th (11:30a-2p+ at St.), ADDED a DATE: <u>April 28th (10a-1p+ at G)</u> Worship (01/28/24); BINGO in February (G + friends from St) Home: 3 Hospital: 0 Retirement: 2 Office: 7</p>

Treasurer / Financial Secretary’s Reports *Sandy Chaney, Treas. - Danielle Bergquist, Fin. Sec.*

- Written Reports- January 2024 Minutes
- **Motion to Accept Minutes:** Kami
- **Seconded:** Keith
- **CARRIED.**

Ministry Team Reports

- **Faith Formation:** Wednesday evening classes
- **WELCA:** World Day of Prayer.

OLD Business

- Double-check we're ready for **February 21 Lenten Meal** (then March 6, March 20)
- **Council Meeting Day and Time**

NEW Business

- **Chili Supper** Fundraiser(s)-Wednesday October 16th 4:30-6:30 -tentative
- Council **Installation** Date: a Sunday when we can all be present.
- Confirmation/Graduation preparations (May 19, 2024) Morgan B and Sara H are our Graduates
- Nicolet Bank Changes
- Johnson Heating **Bill** – latest bill questioned and explained.

NEXT STEPS

- Next Council Meeting: **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – 2:15p**
- Motion to Adjourn: John Time: 3:33p
- Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Kami Salo, Council Secretary

Dwelling in the Word

March 2024

I Cor. 11:17-33 - "Holy Communion"

¹⁷ Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. ²¹ For when the time comes to eat, each of you proceeds to eat your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. ²² What! Do you not have households to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For all who eat and drink without discerning the body eat and drink judgment against themselves. ³⁰ For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

What catches your attention?

What questions does this passage raise for you?

Where might God's Spirit be nudging you in this passage?

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John" ² (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), ³ he left Judea and started back to Galilee. ⁴ But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman

said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

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